

65. The composition according to Claim 40, further comprising in an amount up to 60% by weight of the total composition, one or more hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer(s).

66. The composition according to Claim 39, comprising a starch propionate having a degree of substitution of at least 1.37 and an amylose content of about 70%, and polycaprolactone in an amount of at least 35%.

67. The composition of Claim 39, when shaped into articles.

68. Articles, according to Claim 67, selected from the group consisting of bottles, strands, sheets, films, packaging materials, pipes, tubes, lids, cups, rods, laminated films, sacks, bags, cutlery, pharmaceutical capsules, foams, granulates and powders.

69. A process for making the articles of Claim 68, selected from the group consisting of extrusion, injection molding, compression molding, filming, blow molding, vacuum forming, thermoforming, extrusion moulding, co-extrusion, foaming, profile extrusion and combinations thereof.

70. The composition of Claim 39, in the form of a melt.

71. A melt comprising esterified starch and a linear polyester.

72. A process for forming the melt of Claim 71, comprising heating an esterified starch having a degree of substitution of at least about 1.5 and an amylose content of at least about 50% in the presence of a linear polyester to an elevated temperature and plastifying the thus heated composition until a uniform melt is obtained.

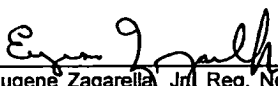
73. The process for forming a melt comprising treating the esterified starch and linear polyester composition of Claim 39 to an elevated temperature and plastifying the thus heated composition until a uniform melt is formed.

74. The process of Claim 73, wherein the esterified starch has a degree of substitution of at least about 1.5 and an amylose content of at least about 50%.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct obvious informalities. All the claims have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims to more particularly define the invention and correct dependency problems and other formalities.

Respectfully submitted,


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